

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lootz et al. **Examiner:** To be assigned
Serial No: To be assigned **Art Unit:** To be assigned
For: CONNECTING SYSTEM FOR CONNECTING A STENT TO A
RADIOPAQUE MARKER AND A PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF A
CONNECTION BETWEEN A STENT AND TWO OR MORE RADIOPAQUE
MARKERS
Filed: December 2, 2005 **Date:** December 2, 2005

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Under 37 CFR §1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of filing or before a first Office Action on the merits, and therefore, it is timely filed without payment of a fee. 37 CFR §1.97(b).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR §1.56(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13, at 25.

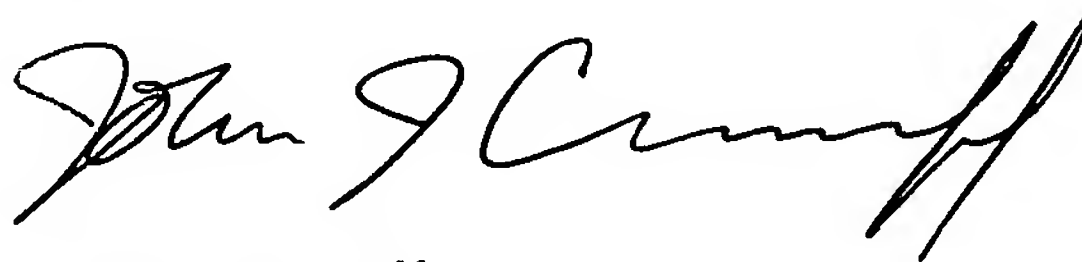
This Information Disclosure Statement is made to comply with the duty of candor imposed on all individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of this application, as defined by 37 CFR §1.56(c).

Four (4) U.S. Patent documents and six (6) foreign patent documents are listed on the attached one (1) sheet of Form PTO/SB/08A which is made a part hereof. A copy of each of the foreign patent documents is enclosed. Enclosed, but not listed on the Form PTO/SB/08A, is a copy of the search report from the German Patent Office, issued May 11, 2004. Copies of the cited U.S. references are not enclosed.

Attached to Foreign document DE 101 55 191, which is not in the English language, is an abstract in the English language as provided by the European Patent Office. Additionally, it should be noted that U.S. 6,287,332 is believed to be a U.S. patent corresponding to DE 198 56 983.

The foregoing Information Disclosure Statement is based upon the information known to the inventor or contained in the undersigned attorney's file as of the filing date of this statement and is inclusive of the best information known to each of the undersigned at that date. Prompt consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement and the references by the Examiner is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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